
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**September 22, 2009
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Abrishami, Lori
Nord, Greg

LACMTA
OCTA

SCAG

Asuncion, John
Kuo, RYAN
Luo, Rongsheng
Nadler, Jonathan
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Brady, Mike
Cacatian, Ben
Cassmassi, Joe
Fagan, Paul
Kelly, John
Lopez, Rosa
O'Connor, Karina
Sells, Yvonne
Wade, Dennis
Walecka, Carla
Yoon, Andrew

Caltrans Headquarters
VCAPCD
SCAQMD
Caltrans District 8
EPA
IVAG
U.S. EPA, Region 9
SCAQMD
ARB
Transportation Corridor Agency
Caltrans, District 7

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1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Shirley Medina, RCTC, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1.1 TCWG August 29, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported the following:

- The 2011 FTIP Guidelines were approved by SCAG's Transportation Committee and Regional Council earlier this month.
- Amendment 20 is waiting for Caltrans approval. Once Caltrans approves it, the amendment will then go to the federal agencies for their review and approval.
- Amendments 21 and 22, both administrative modifications, have been approved.
- Amendment 23 is a formal amendment and is currently under public review. The review period will end on September 24. After the public review, the amendment will be sent to Caltrans for their review.
- Amendment 25 is an administrative modification that SCAG staff is currently working on.

4.2 RTP Update

Ryan Kuo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The draft RTP Amendment #2 and the associated 2008 RTIP Consistency Amendment #24 will be presented to SCAG's Transportation Committee on October 1 for its approval for public release.
- If the draft is released on October 1, the public review and comment period will last until November 6.

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- The amendment is anticipated to be adopted by SCAG's Regional Council (RC) in December.
- The federal approval is expected two months after RC adoption.

4.2.1 Draft Conformity Analysis for 2008 RTP Amendment #2 and 2008 RTIP Consistency Amendment #08-24

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, reported the following:

- The RTP and RTIP Amendments have met the five required conformity tests and demonstrate a positive conformity finding.
- The Draft Conformity Analysis will be presented to SCAG's Energy and Environmental Committee on October 1 and will be released as part of the RTP Amendment document for a 30-day public review.
- The Conformity Analysis is scheduled to be adopted, as part of the RTP Amendment document, by the Regional Council in December.

4.3 SB 375 Update

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, reported the following:

- By September 30th this year, the RTAC is due to give its recommendation report to the ARB.
- At the last meeting on September 16, the RTAC discussed the Draft Report released on September 9. A sub-committee was formed to finalize the draft report. The finalized report will be brought back to the RTAC some time this week before being sent to the ARB on October 30.
- The final report is only recommendations to ARB and the ARB Board may accept, reject, or modify the recommendations.

Dennis Wade, ARB, added that the RTAC Report will be presented to the ARB Board on November 19.

4.4 ARB Update

None.

4.5 EPA Update

John Kelly, EPA, reported the following:

- The 2008 Ozone standard is being reconsidered by EPA in response to a lawsuit.
- One impact of the reconsideration is that EPA is putting on hold the area designation (EPA was on schedule to issue its final area designations by March 2010).

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- The EPA is expediting its schedule by only considering its previous review done in March 2009 and is planning to issue a Proposed Federal Register Notice. The Federal Register proposal is expected to be signed by December 21, 2009. A public comment period would follow and the Final Federal Register Notice would be signed by August 31, 2010.
- Once the Ozone standard revision is finalized, EPA will be on an expedited schedule to complete the area designations within one year by August 31, 2011. The transportation conformity will begin to apply the new Ozone standard by August 31, 2012.
- EPA also plans on reconsidering the seasonal secondary Ozone standard with the same schedule as the primary Ozone standard.

In response to a question from Arnie Sherwood, SCAG, John stated that EPA expects an expedited SIP schedule to be 28 months instead of the normal three years, that is, the next SIP is expected to be due by December 2013. However, the schedule may be refined.

4.6 Air Districts Update

Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, reported the following:

- VCAPCD had been working with VCTC and completed a major revision and update of the 2009 Congestion Management Program (CMP). The CMP has been adopted by VCTC Board.
- VCAPCD had been developing the RAC SIP.

4.6.1 Proposed SCAB & Coachella Valley PM10 Redesignations

Joe Cassmassi, SCAQMD, reported the following:

- SCAQMD was finalizing the proposed SCAB & Coachella Valley PM10 Redesignation Request Documents for public review. SCAQMD will hold regional public meetings in each of its four counties in November. A public notice will be issued in couple of weeks and the documents will be posed on SCAQMD website.
- The final report will be presented to SCAQMD governing board for adoption in December.
- After the board adoption, the document will be forwarded to CARB first and then to EPA for approval.
- The redesignation request, once approved, would eliminate federal PM10 requirements to new sources.

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In response to a question from Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, Joe Cassmassi stated that EPA is expected to take action on the redesignation request by the end of 2011 or early 2012.

4.7 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

1) LA 990353

It was determined that this project is not a POAQC.

4.8 Review of PM Hot Spot Qualitative Analysis

1) State Route 91 Corridor Improvement Project

The analysis was deemed acceptable for NEPA circulation.

5.0 **INFORMATION SHARING**

None.

6.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

Shirley Medina adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on October 27, 2009 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.